

PBS MACNEIL/LEHRER NEWSHOUR
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MACNEIL: Eden Pastora, the Nicaraguan rebel, or contra, leader, is in a hospital in Costa Rica tonight after being slightly wounded in a bomb blast during a news conference. One American woman journalist and three other people were killed and 27 wounded by the bomb. It went off as Pastora, known as Commander Zero, began a news conference in a village occupied by the contras just inside the Nicaraguan border with Costa Rica. The Costa Rican government placed Pastora's hospital room under heavy guard and said that as soon as he was well, he would be deported. Pastora's followers blamed the CIA for the bombing. The Costa Rican government blamed the Nicaraguans. A commercial radio station, Radio Monumental, in Costa Rica, said sources in Pastora's faction of the Revolutionary Democratic Front, or ARDE, said the CIA engineered the attack because Pastora had resisted efforts to join the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, an anti-Sandinista group based in Honduras and financed by the CIA. The American woman killed was Linda Frazier of Portland, Ore., a reporter for a Costa Rican newspaper and wife of an Associated Press reporter. During the Sandinista revolution which overthrew the dictator, Anastasio Somoza, Pastora was a hero in Nicaragua. But he split with the new government when it turned towards Marxism and people began to suffer from shortages.

EDEN/PASTORA (rebel leader): Y estan matando.... (voice of translator) They are killing our people. They don't have sugar, they don't have butter, they don't have soap, they don't medicines, no shoes, no clothes. It's the people who are suffering the most.

MACNEIL: Now, at the age of 48, Pastora is the military leader of the Revolutionary Democratic Force. In the bombing, he was reported to have suffered burns on his chest, and shrapnel wounds, but his injuries were said not to be fatal. For more now on the politics within the contra movement, we turn to Robert Leiken, a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington. Mr. Leiken is a specialist on the politics of Central America and has met with Eden Pastora. He's the editor of the recently published book, 'Central America: Anatomy of Conflict.' Mr. Leiken, first of all, why would Pastora's followers charge that the CIA did this? ROBERT/LEIKEN (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace): Well, first of all, Robin, what I've heard from Pastora's followers, uh, is not that they, uh, thin that the CIA is responsible, but that they feel that it may have bene the work of Basque terrorists, the *ETA, associated with one faction of the Sandinista leadership, associated with Tomas Borge.

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